

Project Description

Eight people I had never met before the first pre-departure meeting and I drove down to Immokalee, FL: a small agricultural town in South Florida at the north end of the Everglades. There we volunteered for a week in an early childhood education center, where we got to interact with the children, perform needed tasks around the facility, and learn about the migrant community there.



What Motivated Me?

I knew I wanted to use my STEP funds to travel somewhere I'd never been before and would likely never have the opportunity to go again in a similar fashion, and I wanted that trip to be focused around service, as I plan to go into humanitarian medicine. I signed up for Buck-I-Serv and was selected for this trip via lottery. People interested in participating on a similar trip should visit the Buck-I-Serv table or contact the executive board.

Buck-I-Serv: Pathways



My Favorite Part of the Experience

My favorite part was a tie for two things. The first was having the opportunity to learn more about migrant communities in the United States, their strengths and struggles, and what they feel possible solutions are to their struggles. This will be invaluable to me as I move forward in my medical career. The second was having the opportunity to go water skiing in the Gulf of Mexico, something I had never done before. It was not as scary as I thought.



Name: Alison Hager

STEP Project Category: Service Learning

STEP Faculty Member:

Major: Biochemistry

What Did I Learn?

I had the opportunity to learn about some of the migrant communities present in the United States. I also had the opportunity to learn more about early childhood education and its importance.



What Was Transformational?

The most transformational aspect of the trip for me was seeing the value of early childhood education. I had previously believed that early childhood education centers were actually just daycares and that watching children while their parents worked was their only purpose. I now know that early childhood education prepares children to be successful in school, and teaches them manners, social skills, and how to cope with various stressors. Never have I seen such well behaved, polite, well-adjusted children as at Pathways.



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Second-year Transformational
Experience Program